

The Brethren Evangelist.

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Address all communications for this office to Ashland, Ohio, and for the sake of convenience, make all drafts, express orders, etc., payable to S. J. Harrison.

It being uncertain when we can return to Ashland; and as we have the books of the office with us, and must see ALL matter before it goes into the paper, we would request for the sake of promptness that all mail be sent direct to us personally to the following address: S. J. HARRISON, 6036 EDGERTON AVE, CHICAGO, Ill.

IF RELIGION.

It is not likely that many who read our heading will read it correctly. Therefore at the outset we must ask you to look at it again and read it with the emphasis on "if." We mean by "if religion" that kind of service which is based on the privilege of serving the flesh or the devil in one way and in one thing or another. One is willing to serve the Lord *if* he can do so without detriment to his business; another *if* it will not disturb his social relations; another *if* he can indulge his appetite for things injurious to health, filthy and offensive to those who do not indulge; another *if* his relative or friend will go with him; another *if* he can play baseball; another *if* she can attend "balls;" another *if* some one in the church is "not allowed to run things;" another *if* such a pastor can be had; another *if* he can retain his connection with sinful organizations of the world; another *if* he can be taken on an erroneous baptism administered when he thought it was right; another *if* he can live in a relation which the Bible calls adultery; another *if* he can have salvation without bringing to the Lord his earthly possessions; another *if* he need not keep the "ordinances as they were delivered;" another *if* the church had a house of worship of its own; another *if* the singing was as good as it is at the opera; another *if* the preacher was more tasteful in personal appearance, less tedious and prosy in his sermons, less cold and haughty in his bearing out of the pulpit, more consistent in his family and walk before the world, and so on *ad infinitum*.

The average congregation in all the world contains a large majority of "if" Christians.

Such members are worse in a church than dry rot in wood. It is a spirit of worldliness that eats away at the spiritual body like a malignant canker in the human heart. It is the large number of "if" members in the Brethren Church that weighs the good ship down and so greatly retards her in preaching deliverance from sin to all nations according as Jesus has commanded. Judas stands in the world's history and literature as the most despicable character to whom God ever gave breath, because he bartered away his Lord for the paltry sum of thirty pieces of silver, and yet we say unto you that every "if" Christian" is offering to sell his Lord, or has already sold him for much less than "thirty pieces of silver." They are willing as Esau was to sell their "birth-right" for a mere mess of pottage. We weep and pray for those who so slightly esteem their Lord. Never for a moment should we give place in our hearts to the questions, "Lord, how little can I do for thee? How much sin may I commit and still be accepted of thee? How far can I get away from thee and still have thee in sight? How late can I start for heaven and how slowly travel and still reach the door of mercy before the Master has arisen and shut it forever?"

Oh, may all "if Christians," whose eyes shall fall upon these lines earnestly pray God at once to cleanse their hearts from this foul sin, and, in its stead, bestow upon them "the gift of the Holy Ghost." Amen.

PORK AND RELIGION.

Although we have used pork more or less all our life, and have always regarded those who refused to eat it on scriptural grounds as superstitious and fanatical, we are now convinced by the following reasons that if we want to be governed by God's law we must not eat it.

1. It was prohibited under the Mosaic dispensation. The hog was pronounced by God "unclean." Has it changed since? Has man changed since? Has God changed since? Is there any reason why a man should eat pork now that did not exist under the Jewish dispensation? Is there any intimation in the Gospel that God has cleansed the hog and made him suitable food for man? That He now blesses what he formerly cursed? Does not food of every kind and character produce the same effect now upon man that it did under the Jewish dispensation? There is no reason for eating pork now that did not exist when God gave the law prohibiting its use for food.

2. Jesus granted the prayer of the devils to enter swine, thereby conceding their foul character. Is there a single instance where Jesus ever destroyed any good thing? Yet

he did allow devils to enter two-thousand hogs at one place resulting in their precipitation into the sea where they all perished.

3. No one has ever thought for a moment that Jesus ate swine's flesh; and he says, ["FOLLOW ME.] Does any one think Jesus would eat pork now if he were here? Then listen to him say: "Let a man deny himself, and take up his cross daily and follow me."

4. Science is a unit in denouncing pork as the most fruitful source of skin diseases. It is the parent of more scrofula and cancers than all other agencies combined. So closely is scrofula related to swine that the name has its origin from a breeding sow. For the proof of this just turn to the word scrofula in any unabridged dictionary. Should we fill the "temple of the Holy Ghost" with that which God pronounced *unclean*? With breeding sows that which Jesus upon a petition from devils permitted them to enter? For our part we do not feel that we can ever do so again.

5. So far as the result of non-pork eating is concerned, Dr. J. A. Dowie says there is not a single instance on record of a Jew who kept the law of God and his fathers that was ever afflicted with cancer. The Doctor therefore concludes that every cancer is directly traceable to pork-eating.

For eighteen years we have never doubted but the Holy Ghost and the hog could dwell together in us, but from this on, we shall not try to confine in one place such uncongenial elements, neither shall we willingly or knowingly take into us any thing which God has ever pronounced, ["UNCLEAN," "UNCLEAN" "UNCLEAN."

ANSWERS TO LETTERS.

As we are situated we can not wholly perform even the part required of us in editing the EVANGELIST. We hope therefore that no one will think evil of us because we do not answer privately, letters asking replies. We think it better to answer publicly so far as possible, than not to answer at all. Hence, under the above heading parties who write us will find brief replies.

TO BRO. JOHN NICHOLSON: The party to whom you refer is much better known to us than you. We do not consider any rules under which we are working as having been violated by the publication of the article in question.

As to why certain articles are published more promptly than others, this is the explanation: Manuscript ready for the compositor when received is published just as soon as there is space for it, whereas articles that require re-writing, or much labor to correct, are published as soon after they are corrected as space is found. Articles that